

**STATE
WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD
and
REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARDS**

State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards

The mission of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

Water Rights

SWRCB Goal 4: Water resources are fairly and equitably used and allocated consistent with public trust.

Water rights involve the equitable allocation of water for urban, agricultural, and environmental interests. The water rights program authorizes the diversion and/or storage of surface waters for the benefit of California's residents, its environment, and its economy.

Accomplishments

1. **Bay-Delta Program:** In November, the Sacramento County Superior Court completed its hearing on Water Right Decision 1641, which implements the 1995 Bay-Delta Plan. SWRCB staff assisted the Attorney General in preparing and responding to arguments presented at the hearing. The court's decision is expected in early 2003. In October, the SWRCB adopted an order extending its stay of Bay-Delta hearings until January 2003, to allow phase 8 parties time to complete tasks required by their settlement agreement. If the SWRCB had not adopted the order, the stay would have expired and phase 8 would have been dismissed in October 2003.
2. **San Luis Rey River Water Right Applications:** In February 2000, the SWRCB issued a draft water right order. The order ruled on whether groundwater in the Pauma and Pala basins of the San Luis Rey River in San Diego County is a subterranean stream flowing through a known and definite channel and therefore subject to SWRCB permitting authority. Action on the order was stayed pending a review by Joseph Sax, law professor at the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Sax completed his review in January and the SWRCB held workshops in April on Sax's recommendations. On October 17, 2002, the SWRCB issued a decision that held that the Pala Basin of the San Luis Rey is a subterranean stream and that groundwater diversions from the basin are subject to the SWRCB's permitting authority. However, the decision found that the applicants had not provided substantial evidence to show that the Pauma Basin was a subterranean stream. Therefore, the SWRCB declined to exercise its permitting authority over groundwater diversions from that basin.
3. **Imperial Irrigation District Water Transfer:** On October 28, 2002, the SWRCB issued a water right decision approving a proposed transfer of water from Imperial Irrigation District to San Diego County Water Authority, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California,

and Coachella Valley Water District. The proposed transfer is a key provision of a number of several inter- and intrastate agreements regarding the Colorado River. Parties opposed to the project petitioned the SWRCB to reconsider its decision. On December 20, the SWRCB confirmed its approval of the transfer. As of December 31, the parties involved in the transfer had not come to an agreement on terms of the transfer, or on the terms of the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), a related agreement that enabled the transfer to move forward. The Secretary of the Interior will likely suspend the Interim Surplus Guidelines on January 1, 2003, and limit California to 4.4 million acre-feet per year of Colorado River water, a cut of approximately 800,000 acre-feet. Negotiations between the parties involved in the QSA and the transfer are scheduled to continue in January 2003, in hopes of reinstating Interim Surplus Guidelines.

4. **North Bay Aqueduct Water Rights Hearing:** The Cities of Vacaville, Fairfield, and Benicia filed applications to appropriate water through the North Bay Aqueduct of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) under claimed area of origin and municipal preferences. The DWR and others protested the application. The SWRCB scheduled a hearing on the applications in the summer of 2002, but postponed the hearing to give the parties an opportunity to resolve the protests. The SWRCB held a pre-hearing conference in November. At the pre-hearing conference, these cities and the DWR told the SWRCB that they had entered into a tentative agreement under which DWR will provide water to the cities under contract and the cities will withdraw their application. The SWRCB agreed to postpone action pending a withdrawal of the applications.

Priorities

1. **Bay-Delta Program:** In February 2003, the SWRCB will hold a second workshop on attainment of the 1995 Bay-Delta Plan narrative objective regarding salmon protection. This workshop was scheduled for November, but it was postponed in order to provide the Department of Fish and Game and the federal fisheries agencies with time to evaluate salmon production data collected during water year 2001–02. In March 2003, the Interagency Ecological Program, a multi-agency group that provides the SWRCB with monitoring data required by D1641 (the decision implementing the 1995 Bay/Delta Plan), will present its conclusions regarding an evaluation of the required monitoring plan and make recommendations to the SWRCB about potential changes to the Bay/Delta Plan.
2. **North Bay Aqueduct Water Rights Hearing:** If the cities of Vacaville, Benicia, and Fairfield and the DWR do not enter into a final agreement under which the cities withdraw their water right applications to divert water from the DWR's North Bay Aqueduct, the SWRCB will hold a status conference on March 5, 2003, to determine whether the water rights hearing should be held.

Clean Beaches

Cal/EPA Goal 2: Rivers, lakes, estuaries and marine waters that are fishable, swimmable, support healthy ecosystems and other beneficial uses.

SWRCB Goal 6: Water quality is comprehensively measured to evaluate protection and restoration efforts.

Bacteria from urban and stormwater runoff, sewage spills, and other sources cause periodic closures and warnings at many Southern California beaches. California's beach water quality standards are more stringent than those in other states and are established to protect public health. To eliminate or reduce beach closures, the SWRCB and regional board staffs are implementing the Governor's Clean Beaches Initiative. The initiative provides \$32.2 million in bond money for projects that eliminate or track the sources of contaminated water flowing to coastal waters.

Accomplishments

1. **Local Projects Funding:** SWRCB staff will assist the agencies identified in SB 739 (Peace, Chapter 106, Statutes 2001) in receiving grant funding to reduce bacterial contamination of beaches. The SWRCB committed \$4.1 million in grant funds during the last half of 2002.
2. **Rapid Indicator Development:** The SWRCB's contractor, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, has selected five subcontractors and executed subcontracts for developing a rapid indicator for bacteria.
3. **Coastline Advisory Database:** The SWRCB, assisted by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Beach Act grant funds, developed a new Web-based beach closure reporting database. Database training is being conducted with the coastal counties.
4. **Beach Report Card:** The SWRCB developed an approach to reporting the status of beach water quality based on the beach mile-day measurement. Web site access will be available in the first half of 2003 so that historical data can be incorporated into the coastline advisory database.
5. **Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD):** A controversy exists on whether discharges of advanced primary treated wastewater from the OCSD are responsible for beach postings and closures. In July, the Santa Ana Regional Board amended OCSD's permit to require them to begin a disinfection program. In August, OCSD began disinfecting its discharge of up to 300 million gallons per day.
6. **Santa Monica Bay:** In July, the SWRCB approved the Los Angeles Regional Board amended basin plan objectives for protecting REC-1 (water contact) beneficial uses. In September, the SWRCB approved the regional board's basin plan amendment for a dry-weather pathogen total maximum daily load (TMDL) for Santa Monica Bay. The regional board adopted the wet-weather pathogen TMDL for Santa Monica Bay on December 12. Both the City and County of Los Angeles are developing an implementation plan. The city's

draft integrated plan for wastewater program calls for collection and reuse of 50 percent of the stormwater runoff by the year 2020.

Priorities

1. **Annual Beach Closure Report:** This report will be sent to the Legislature as required by Health and Safety Code section 115910. The report summarizes the State's beach posting and closure activities for the previous calendar year and activities aimed at improving coastal water quality.
2. **Local Projects Funding:** SWRCB staff will continue assisting the agencies named in SB 739 in receiving grant funding to reduce bacterial contamination of beaches. The SWRCB will commit an additional \$9.6 million in grant funds by June 2003. Staff will distribute the funding allocated by AB 2534 (Pavley and Nakano, Chapter 727, Statutes 2002) from Proposition 40 (\$46 million). Staff will propose nominees for the clean beaches task force, review proposed projects, and a complete a project priority list for SWRCB approval.
3. **Rapid Indicator Development:** The SWRCB's contractor, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, will review the findings of the five research groups subcontracted to develop a rapid bacterial indicator. A workshop is scheduled for May 14, 2003, in Monterey to share information on research and evaluate procedures for testing rapid indicator methods. The draft report for phase I of the rapid bacterial indicator study will be completed by June 30, 2003.
4. **Coastline Advisory Database:** A database will be available in January 2003 to improve the transfer and accessibility of water quality data between local, State, and federal agencies, and the public. The database, developed by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to serve the five southern California counties, will be linked to this newly created database.
5. **Beach Report Card:** The beach report card will be automated and made available on the Web once historic data are incorporated into the new coastline advisory database. Beach report card information will be available including August 1999 (first full month of AB 411, Wayne, Chapter 765, Statutes of 1997, [Health and Safety Code sections 115880, 115885, and 115915 data]) to the most recent month of reported data. The information will include statewide beach mile-day summaries, summaries by counties, and summaries by beach.

Total Maximum Daily Loads

SWRCB Goal 6

TMDLs provide a way of restoring California's 509 surface water bodies that are listed as impaired. The TMDL process involves identifying and addressing all sources of a pollutant causing impairment. A permissible amount of the pollutant is allocated to each discharger. Diverse interests in a watershed are part of drafting and negotiating TMDLs. The SWRCB is

pursuing program improvements such as training, guidance, offsets, local agreements, and long-term strategies.

Accomplishments

1. **Impaired Waters Listing for 2002 and Policy Development:** SWRCB staff received comments from approximately 300 people or organizations regarding the proposed listing of impaired waters under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. On October 15, SWRCB staff released a final draft incorporating changes to the list based on comments received. The SWRCB expects to consider adoption of the list on January 22, 2003. On July 11, SWRCB staff released a concept paper on the scope of the issues that should be addressed in the development of the listing/de-listing policy.
2. **TMDLs Adopted as Basin Plan Amendments by Regional Boards in 2002**
 - Santa Monica Bay pathogen (wet-weather) TMDL—Los Angeles: December.
 - Santa Clara River chloride TMDL—Los Angeles: October.
 - Calleguas Creek nutrient TMDL-Los Angeles: October.
 - Morro Bay pathogen TMDL—Central Coast: December.
 - San Lorenzo River sediment TMDL—Central Coast: September.
 - Las Tablas Creek and Lake Nacimiento metals TMDLs—Central Coast: September.
 - Clear Lake mercury TMDL-Central Valley: December.
 - Indian Creek Reservoir phosphorous TMDL—Lahontan: July.
3. **TMDLs submitted to U.S. EPA:**
 - Mattole Watershed temperature and sediment TMDLs—North Coast.

Priorities

1. **Impaired Waters Listing and Policy:** The SWRCB will consider adoption of the Clean Water Act section 303(d) list at the January 22, 2003, board meeting. The list is scheduled to be submitted to U.S. EPA by February 15, 2003. SWRCB staff will continue developing a policy for listing and de-listing water quality limited segments pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d). Issues to be addressed include acceptable data quality, factors for listing and de-listing waters, criteria for prioritizing listed water bodies, and public notice procedures.
2. **TMDLs Scheduled for Adoption as Basin Plan Amendments**
 - San Francisco Bay mercury TMDL—San Francisco Bay: January 2003.

- Sacramento River diazinon TMDL—Central Valley.
- Feather River diazinon TMDL—Central Valley.
- San Joaquin River organochlorine TMDL—Central Valley.
- Los Angeles River pathogens and nutrients TMDLs—Los Angeles: March 2003 and May 2003, respectively.
- Malibu Creek pathogens and nutrients TMDLs—Los Angeles: February 2003.
- Newport Bay/San Diego Creek diazinon and chlorpyrifos TMDLs—Santa Ana: April 2003.
- Rainbow Creek nutrient TMDL—San Diego: February 2003.

3. **TMDLs Scheduled for Submittal as a Technical Report**

- Cache Creek mercury TMDL—Central Valley.
- Delta diazinon, chlorpyrifos, and dissolved oxygen TMDLs—Central Valley.
- Harley Gulch mercury TMDL—Central Valley.
- Sacramento Area Urban Creeks diazinon and chlorpyrifos—Central Valley.
- San Francisco Bay PCB TMDL.
- Upper Lost River and the Salmon River nutrients and temperature TMDLs—North Coast.
- Palo Verde pathogen TMDL—Colorado River Basin.
- Imperial Valley Drains silt/sediment TMDL—Colorado River Basin.

Surface Water Cleanups

Cal/EPA Goal 2

California's surface waters support many beneficial uses, including drinking, swimming, fishing, and aquatic life, as well as agricultural and industrial uses. When the concentration of a pollutant in a river, lake, or other surface waters exceeds standards, cleanup actions are necessary to restore water quality. That, in turn, restores the beneficial use. These efforts are in addition to cleanups taken through TMDLs.

SWRCB Goal 2: Surface waters are safe for drinking, fishing, swimming and support healthy ecosystems and other beneficial uses.

Accomplishments

1. Contaminated Sediments Cleanups

- **Delta:** The Central Valley Regional Board adopted a cleanup plan for three toxic hot spots in the Delta stemming from agricultural and urban use of chlorpyrifos and diazinon in December.
 - **San Diego Bay:** The San Diego Regional Board reached agreements with the City of San Diego and the Port of San Diego on work plans for remediation of additional contaminated sediment areas in San Diego Bay. Sampling at these sites will begin in January 2003. The regional board also reached agreement with the U.S. Navy to submit a work plan in March 2003 for remediation of contaminated sediment areas adjacent to Navy facilities in San Diego Bay.
2. **Acid Mine Drainage—Leviathan Mine:** The Lahontan Regional Board treated acid mine drainage at the Leviathan Mine to prevent overflows in the 2002–03 winter season.
 3. **Rosamond Dry Lake—Edwards Air Force Base:** In September, the Lahontan Regional Board adopted a schedule to eliminate overflows from Los Angeles County Sanitation District's (No. 14) Lancaster wastewater treatment facility that interfere with operations at Edwards Air Force Base.

Priorities

1. **San Diego Shipyards:** The San Diego Regional Board will issue a cleanup and abatement order setting cleanup levels for National Steel Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO) and Southwest Marine for contaminated sediment remediation in San Diego Bay adjacent to the respective leaseholds of the shipyards.
2. **Peninsula Sportsman Club:** A bay sediment remediation project at Peninsula Sportsman Club will begin by June 2003. San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is leading the project, with San Francisco Bay Regional Board oversight. The project will clean up lead contamination in ponds from the old gun club.

Water Quality and Surface Water Permits

Cal/EPA Goal 2

SWRCB Goals 2 and 6

The SWRCB is achieving legislative mandates on waivers specified by SB 390 (Alpert, Chapter 686, Statutes of 1999). SB 390 requires the regional boards to review and adjust the regulation of discharges that have received waivers. Under SB 390, all existing waivers of waste discharge requirements will expire on January 1, 2003. SWRCB is also incorporating numeric standards for toxics in permits and supporting new federal requirements for stormwater permits.

Accomplishments

1. Precedential Orders

- **Effluent-Dominated Waters—City of Vacaville Municipal Discharge Permit Petition:** On October 3, the SWRCB issued its decision on a petition by the City of Vacaville regarding discharges of secondary-treated effluent to Old Alamo Creek. This is an effluent-dominated stream (waters with little or no dilution capacity) in Solano County. Through this petition, the SWRCB considered the proper application of water quality standards to this type of setting, statewide. The City of Vacaville filed a lawsuit regarding the decision on November 15.
- **East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD):** On July 18, the SWRCB adopted a precedential order concerning a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued to EBMUD. The order concluded that regional boards may impose both concentration and mass interim limits for the same pollutant; that the State implementation plan for toxics pollutants supersedes regional board basin plans regarding dilution credits and mixing zones; regional boards must determine whether there is assimilative capacity for bioaccumulative pollutants on pollutant-specific basis; and mixing zones may be denied to compensate for uncertainties in the assimilative capacity of the water body.

2. **Waivers—SB 390 Implementation:** Regional boards are reviewing, and revising or curtailing waivers for activities that were not previously authorized through permits. The following highlights progress on significant situations:

- **Agricultural Drainage:** The Central Valley Regional Board initiated a monitoring program in the Central Valley to better define effects of irrigation return flows on water quality.
- **Silviculture:** A workshop was held on July 17 in Sacramento to get input on implementation options. The North Coast Regional Board adopted a waiver (12-month duration) on December 10, and the other regional boards will consider reissuing, rescinding, or adopting such waivers in early 2003.
- **Dairies:** The Central Valley Regional Board adopted a waiver policy for confined animal feeding operations. The regional board will also be issuing individual Waste Discharge Requirements/NPDES permits for some confined animal feeding operations.
- **Retail fertilizer and pesticide rinse water facilities:** The Central Valley Regional Board adopted a new waiver policy in September.
- **Septic Tanks:** Legislation was enacted to extend the expiration of existing waivers to June 2004.

3. **Statewide General Construction Activities Stormwater Permit (1 to 5 acres):** The existing general construction permit covering projects greater than 5 acres was amended and adopted in December to cover smaller projects.
4. **Major Stormwater Permits**
 - In October, the Santa Ana Regional Board reissued the Riverside County municipal stormwater permit.
 - In October, the Central Valley Regional Board revised the Stockton and Modesto municipal stormwater permits and the Sacramento municipal stormwater permit in December.
5. **San Diego Bay Dischargers:** The San Diego Regional Board issued NPDES permits to regulate industrial, commercial, and residential areas at two U.S. Navy facilities (Point Loma and 32nd Street Naval Yard) adjacent to San Diego Bay. The regional board also reissued NPDES permits for two San Diego Bay shipyards, Southwest Marine and Continental Maritime.
6. **Eradication of non-native species—*Caulerpa Taxifolia*:** The San Diego Regional Board developed a contract request for a \$600,000 federal section 319(h) nonpoint source-funded project to develop ways to eradicate the destructive, invasive non-native seaweed *Caulerpa Taxifolia* in coastal waters.

Priorities

1. **Waivers—SB 390 Implementation:** A Statewide general order for low-threat discharges has been drafted and is scheduled for consideration by SWRCB in early spring 2003. The general order will supplement existing regional board waiver policies or will be used instead of waivers for low-threat discharges to land. A statewide general order for low-threat dredge or fill discharges is being drafted.
2. **Statewide Stormwater Permits**
 - General industrial activities stormwater permit. By June 2003, SWRCB will reissue this permit covering thousands of industrial operations.
 - General stormwater permit for small municipal separate storm sewer systems. SWRCB staff is revising the draft permit following the December 2 workshop. Adoption is scheduled for January 2003.
3. **Major Stormwater Permits**
 - Los Angeles municipal stormwater permit. The SWRCB will consider several petitions filed by numerous cities and business organizations challenging the areawide stormwater permit for the County of Los Angeles and 84 cities within the county. The petitions

challenge provisions requiring compliance with water quality standards, inspections of commercial, industrial, and construction activities, and obligations cities claim infringe on their land use responsibilities.

- The San Francisco Bay Regional Board plans to update Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Mateo countywide municipal stormwater permits to require treatment measures and flow controls.
 - In March 2003, the North Coast Regional Board will adopt the municipal stormwater permit for the City of Santa Rosa including unincorporated areas surrounding the City of Santa Rosa.
4. **Stockton Municipal Wastewater Plant:** The SWRCB will consider a petition filed by the City of Stockton concerning the permit for its sewage treatment works. The petition requests that dilution credits be extended for discharges into the San Joaquin River near the Delta.
 5. **Cargill Salt Ponds 401 Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements:** The Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are negotiating with Cargill Salt to purchase 16,500 acres of former salt ponds for restoration. If purchased, the ponds would be operated differently to avoid concentrating salt and meeting discharge requirements. The agencies have agreed on an interim management plan that should protect sensitive species and meet water quality standards. This plan forms the basis for waste discharge requirements and the 401 water quality certification that will be issued by the San Francisco Regional Board if the purchase occurs.
 6. **Duke Energy, Morro Bay Power Plant:** The Central Coast Regional Board will consider adopting an NPDES permit for the Morro Bay Power Plant during the second quarter of 2003. Concerns about a closed recycling water cooling system versus an open system (one use before discharge) have delayed issuing this permit.
 7. **Pacific Gas and Electric, Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant:** The Central Coast Regional Board is scheduled to complete the settlement agreement and consider adoption of an NPDES permit for once-through cooling water in March 2003.
 8. **Waters of the United States—Lahontan Region:** As a result of a U.S. Supreme Court decision, a number of water bodies in the Lahontan region may not be considered waters of the United States under the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act. The Lahontan Regional Board will conduct a workshop to determine if discharges to these waters will be regulated through federal or State permits.
 9. **Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD):** In June 2003, the Santa Ana Regional Board, with U.S. EPA, is scheduled to consider adoption of a new permit for OCSD, which currently discharges both primary and secondary effluent. The new permit would require OCSD to upgrade its facilities to a full secondary treatment level. It will take some time to construct

facilities to comply with the new permit, so the board will consider a cease and desist order with a time schedule for construction.

10. **General Recycling Order:** The Central Valley Regional Board will adopt a general order for recycling treated domestic wastewater. This should ease the permit process for reclamation projects.

Groundwater Protection and Cleanups

Cal/EPA Goals 2 and 3: Groundwater that is safe for drinking and other beneficial uses.

SWRCB Goal 3: Groundwater is safe for drinking and other beneficial uses.

Roughly 40 percent of California's drinking water comes from groundwater resources. These resources are threatened by a legacy of handling materials and wastes. The problems include leaking underground storage tanks containing fuel or solvents and disposing of spent chemicals. Containment and cleanup of groundwater contaminants, improvements in waste and material handling practices, the use of graphical information systems, and using the best science available are components of the State's groundwater protection program.

Accomplishments

1. **Chromium VI in Hinkley, San Bernardino County:** Pacific Gas and Electric submitted a work plan for the long-term remediation of the chromium VI plume. The remediation system to control plume migration was delayed for pilot studies and the California Environmental Quality Act analysis.
2. **San Fernando Valley Chromium VI Investigation:** The Los Angeles Regional Board submitted the second draft of the chromium VI investigation report to U.S. EPA for review on August 31. The regional board revised the draft on November 29.
3. **Moffett Federal Airfield, San Francisco Bay:** In August, a record of decision was signed incorporating State landfill regulations as a basis for remediation and closure of the airfield's 9-acre solid waste landfill.
4. **MTBE Sampling at Operating Stations in Santa Clara Valley:** In December, San Francisco Bay Regional Board staff requested groundwater MTBE sampling at an additional 180 gas stations in Santa Clara Valley, with a focus on stations that pose a high threat to the heavily used aquifers.
5. **Solvent Stabilizer Sampling:** In mid-2002, San Francisco Bay Regional Board staff requested groundwater sampling for solvent stabilizers such as 1,4-dioxane at 15 Bay Area sites considered to have released these constituents. Solvent stabilizers may go undetected using routine analytical and reporting practices. They may pose a greater threat to water quality than the primary solvents because of their toxicity, mobility, and persistence.

Responses from 10 sites detected 1,4-dioxane, and 4 of the sites measured significant concentrations (over 300 ppb in groundwater). Follow-up monitoring continues.

6. **Mission Valley Terminal, San Diego:** Compliance with a cleanup directive was carried out when the responsible parties for discharges at the petroleum tank farm completed a human health risk assessment work plan and report. The report concluded that, under the current land use scenario, there are no significant risks to human health from hydrocarbon vapor inhalation in the nearby Qualcomm Stadium or the surrounding parking lot, or through ingestion of polluted groundwater. Further, there are no significant environmental risks to the San Diego River from migration of contaminated groundwater into the river.

Priorities

1. **Rialto-Colton-Fontana Perchlorate Plume:** The Santa Ana Regional Board will oversee investigations into the sources of the perchlorate plume that has caused the closure of 20 municipal water supply wells. Installation of wellhead treatment systems will begin on some of the affected wells, partially funded by the SWRCB cleanup and abatement account.
2. **Santa Ysabel Drinking Water:** This area in the San Diego region is very dependent on groundwater that is now threatened by petroleum contaminants. The San Diego Regional Board will issue orders to four property owners requiring soil investigations, and the board will issue an order to the operator of one active gasoline station to conduct an enhanced leak detection test.
3. **Temecula Drinking Water Wells:** The San Diego Regional Board will require cleanup at five underground storage sites in Temecula that have caused groundwater pollution and reduced service from Rancho California Water District Well No. 118.

Monitoring and Assessment

Cal/EPA Goal 7: Continuous improvement and application of science and technology.

SWRCB Goal 6

Water quality monitoring and assessment provides vital information to determine the health of waters, trends in water quality conditions, the need for follow-up investigations, and the basis for prescribing waste discharge limitations in permits.

Accomplishments

1. **Water Quality Assessment:** The SWRCB submitted the draft biennial report on the state's water quality to U.S. EPA as required by the federal Clean Water Act section 305(b). This report provides water quality information to the public and will be incorporated into the U.S. EPA national water quality inventory report to Congress. The final report will include listings of impaired water bodies as required by the section 303(d) of the act.

2. **Groundwater Monitoring:** The SWRCB formed an interagency task force and public advisory committee to develop a comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring report as mandated by AB 599 (Liu, Chapter 522, Statutes of 2001 [section 10780 of the California Water Code]). The SWRCB prepared a draft comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring report for public advisory committee review. Groundwater quality and age dating samples were collected in the Fresno, Manteca, Pleasanton, and Stockton areas. Voluntary sampling of domestic wells was completed in Yuba County.

Priorities

1. **Water Quality Assessment:** The Clean Water Act section 305(b) report will be finalized when the SWRCB approves the Clean Water Act section 303(d) list, which is expected in January 2003.
2. **Groundwater Monitoring:** The SWRCB will finalize the comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring report and submit it to the Legislature as mandated by AB 599. Groundwater quality sampling and age-dating will be completed in the Chico area. Voluntary water quality sampling of domestic wells will be conducted in the second focus area (Placerville area of El Dorado County). The results of sampling groundwater from 10 percent of municipal solid waste landfills for radioactive materials will be compiled.
3. **Lake Tahoe Monitoring:** The Lahontan Regional Board has initiated a \$3 million monitoring contract to provide better insight into the significant sources of fine sediment and nutrients that are contributing to the decline in clarity of Lake Tahoe. This information will be used to regulate stormwater discharges and to develop a TMDL for Lake Tahoe.
4. **San Francisco Region:** Effluent characterization for the 126 priority pollutants by all dischargers has been underway. Ambient monitoring for the 126 priority pollutants has been conducted as a group effort through the regional monitoring program. The additional data will help implement the SIP and CTR in future permit reissuance. The first interim reports are due in May 2003.

Water Quality Control Plans

SWRCB Goal 6

Water quality control plans provide a general plan for achieving water quality goals and objectives. These plans are the basis for the permits issued to dischargers. Typically, these plans define the waters and the beneficial uses to be protected, list the allowable pollutant levels, and set out the measures to achieve these goals. Regional boards develop these plans for major watersheds. The SWRCB develops plans to address water quality issues that are common to more than one region. Water quality control plans are reviewed every three years and are subject to SWRCB approval.

Accomplishments

1. **Sediment Quality Objectives:** In November, the SWRCB executed a contract with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to develop sediment quality objectives.
2. **Central Valley Basin Plan:** The Central Valley Regional Board adopted basin plan amendments to revise the bacteria objectives for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin (in July) and for the Tulare Lake Basin (in October).
3. **Deer Creek, El Dorado and Sacramento Counties:** The Central Valley Regional Board adopted site-specific pH and turbidity objectives for Deer Creek in El Dorado and Sacramento Counties to address compliance problems in an effluent-dominated water body. Site-specific temperature objectives will be considered in January 2003.
4. **Cathedral City Septic Tanks:** On November 13, the Colorado River Basin Regional Board adopted a basin plan amendment to prohibit the use of septic systems in the cove area of Cathedral City effective January 1, 2012.

Priorities

1. **Site-Specific Objectives Guidance Document:** The SWRCB expects to release a draft for public comment by February 2003. The document will provide guidance to establish acceptable concentrations of pollutants in waters that have unique characteristics.
2. **Ocean Plan Amendments:** The draft functional equivalent document for amending the Ocean Plan will be completed and mailed to the public by June 30, 2003.
3. **Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (SIP):** By March 2003, SWRCB staff expects to provide a summary of public comments received on potential changes to the SIP.
4. **Nitrogen/Total Dissolved Solids Task Force:** The Santa Ana Regional Board will consider basin plan amendments in April 2003 to revise groundwater basin boundaries and water quality objectives for nitrogen and salinity.
5. **North Coast Basin Plan:** The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board will adopt a basin plan amendment updating the beneficial uses of surface and ground waters throughout the region.
6. **San Francisco Stream Protection Basin Plan Amendments:** The San Francisco Regional Board will consider updates to wetland protection language, the region's water body list, maps, and designated beneficial uses starting in March 2003 and ending late in 2003. These proposed amendments will shape the regulatory basis of Clean Water Act section 401 permits and stormwater programs.

7. **Los Angeles Bacteria Objectives:** The Los Angeles Regional Board will consider a basin plan amendment that would suspend bacteria objectives (protective of body-contact recreational uses) during high flow conditions.

Nonpoint Source Control

SWRCB Goal 6

An assessment of water quality conditions in California shows that nonpoint sources of pollution have the greatest effect on water quality. Nonpoint sources are not readily controlled by conventional means. Activities such as cultivating or developing land contribute to pollutants in runoff. Controlling nonpoint sources requires using preventive plans and practices by those involved in the activities and by those overseeing such activities.

Accomplishments

1. **Regulations for On-Site Sewage Treatment Systems** (for example, septic tanks): The SWRCB released draft regulations for the permitting and operations of on-site systems in December. Water Code section 13290-13291.7 (AB 885, Jackson, Chapter 781, Statutes of 2000) requires the SWRCB to adopt these regulations by January 1, 2004.
2. **Dairies:** The San Francisco Regional Board awarded certificates of recognition to 13 dairies in Sonoma and Marin Counties for consistently complying with State standards. The certificates were awarded to the dairies at the December Sonoma/Marin Animal Resource Committee meeting.

Priorities

1. **Compliance Assistance Guidance:** In March 2003, the SWRCB will consider adopting compliance assistance guidance for implementing California's nonpoint source pollution control program, pursuant to SB 227 (Alpert, Chapter 560, Statutes of 1999).
2. **Regulations for Integrated On-Farm Drainage Management (IFDM) Systems:** In April 2003, the SWRCB will develop a regulatory program for permitting solar evaporators as the drainage and sale end-point component of IFDM systems. SB 1372 (Machado, Chapter 597, Statutes of 2002), an amendment to the Health and Safety Code, established this program.

Financial Assistance

Cal/EPA Goal 5: Reduce or eliminate the disproportionate impacts of pollution on low-income and minority populations.

The SWRCB assists communities in eliminating unacceptable human health and ecological risks because of exposure from hazardous substances and other potentially harmful agents. State assistance helps reduce or eliminate the disproportionate impacts of pollution on low-income and minority populations. About 70 percent of the SWRCB annual budget is comprised of funds in

the form of financial assistance. These funds provide grants for cleaning leaking underground fuel tanks and loans and grants for wastewater treatment facilities, water recycling projects, nonpoint source projects, watershed projects, and other projects.

Accomplishments

1. Proposition 13 Bond Funds

- **Water Recycling Construction Projects:** The SWRCB made funding commitments to local agencies for water recycling projects using the \$105 million in the 2000 Water Bond water recycling subaccount.
- **Watershed, Nonpoint Source, and Coastal Nonpoint Source Programs:** The SWRCB finalized most of the contracts for projects selected in the first year (\$21.8 million) of funding. The SWRCB reviewed proposals submitted for the second round of funding and established a priority list of projects totaling \$78 million. SWRCB staff released a request for proposals for projects to be funded from the \$10 million pesticide management set aside in the nonpoint source program. SWRCB staff developed a request for proposals for the third round of funding.

2. **Federal Nonpoint Source Grants:** The SWRCB reviewed proposals and established a priority list of projects submitted for \$6.4 million of nonpoint source grant funding for 2003. Staff has finalized most contracts selected for the federal fiscal year 2002 funding.

Priorities

1. Propositions 13, 40, and 50 Funds

- **Small community wastewater grants:** The small community wastewater grant program will have \$15 million of Proposition 40 funds as established by AB 2534. The SWRCB will notify prospective applicants of the availability of the funds and request the submission of proposed projects for the priority list.
- **Small community groundwater grants:** The small community groundwater grant program will have available \$10 million of Proposition 40 funds as established by AB 2534. The SWRCB will notify prospective applicants of the availability of the funds and request the submission of proposed projects for the priority list.
- **Water Recycling Construction Projects:** Funding criteria will be established to administer Proposition 50 funds for planning, design, and construction of water recycling projects.
- **Watershed and nonpoint source programs:** A memorandum of understanding regarding funding program coordination will be established as required by Proposition 40 authorization legislation. A request for proposals will be released and phase II contracts, using Proposition 13 funds, will be signed.

2. **Federal Nonpoint Source Grants:** Contracts for federal fiscal year 2002 will be finalized and a request for proposals for fiscal year 2003 funds will be released.
3. **Quality Assurance Guidance:** Quality assurance guidance is being prepared for environmental and watershed projects, budgeted for more than \$500 million, as required by the passage of Propositions 13, 40, and 50. In order to ensure that the environmental quality data collected is valid, the SWRCB will review its quality assurance project plan (QAPP) requirements and draft revised requirements as necessary. QAPPs are required for many federally funded projects and for the surface water ambient monitoring program. The final guidance will be distributed to all SWRCB and regional board staff responsible for these projects.